Growth of food processing industry

1327. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the food processing industries have made good progress during the last two years;

(b) if so, the growth rate, State-wise;

(c) whether there are still some States where food processing industry is yet to make any progress;

(d) if so, what are those States: and

(e) the details of steps taken to remove the regional imbalances and develop food processing in every State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (e) Food Processing Industries are both in the organised and unorganised sectors and information in respect of all processed food industries State-wise is not maintained centrally. Food processing industries also cover various segments. However, the growth rate of production in fruit and vegetable products was 30.28% in the year 1992-93 and 23.66% in the year 1993-94. During the same period Milk products in the organised sector grew at about 8·5% and 8% respectively. Growth rate of soft drinks at 8% and that of beer averaged 10—15% during the period. Although the overall growth of cocoa products grew by 0.25% and 1.2% during the period, growth of chocolate has been negative.

While some States have made considerable progress, states in the North-Eastern Region, Bihar, Orissa, Jammu & Kashmir are lagging behind. Govt. is encouraging investment in Food Processing Sectors by assisting setting up of Food Processing Industries in the above states.

Joint R&D potential for food processing with US

1328. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exists a vast potential for joint R & D efforts in the food processing industry between India and the United States of America; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to tap the potential for growth of food processing industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has recently undertaken an Indo-US research project supported through US-India Fund and are also open to taking up similar projects in future as and when offers of suitable opportunities are received.

Creation of a network of food processing industries around Delhi

1329. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any project for the development of vegetable, horticulture, floriculture, mushroom cultivation, poultry, fishery and dairy in the areas around Delhi falling in the territory of Haryana, UP and Rajasthan, to cater the national need and to export these commodities; if not, whether Government would consider this suggestion; and

(b) whether Government have any plans to set up agro industries in the areas surrounding Delhi and in the States of Haryana, U.P. and Rajasthan, to create a network of food processing, packaging, grading, transportation, finance and marketing, to help the growers and producers; if not, whether Government propose to have integrated development plans to develop this infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Agriculture encourages development of Horticulture in different States of the Country. National Horticulture Board under its soft-loan schemes is providing financial assistance for creation of infrastructure and marketing facilities such as, for components relating to grading, packaging: cold stores, etc., for various Horticulture produces. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its Plan Schemes, is providing assistance to State Government Organisations/ Cooperatives/Voluntary Agencies etc., for setting up/upgrading food processing industries.

Permission for deep-sea fishing

1330. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have granted permission for deep-sea fishing; if so, what are the details of the scheme and offers received from the foreign and Indian companies and action taken thereon;

(b) what are the details of the main recommendations made by the Technical Committee, Bose Committee and FAO Committee on deep-sea fishing and how far these recommendations have been followed in approving the joint venture scheme;

(c) whether Government have received any representations form Fishermen's Associations from Gujarat and other coastal areas; if so, what are their main demands and what action the Government have taken or propose to take thereon;

(d) to what extent the joint venture scheme will affect the supply of fish in the open market;

(e) to what extent the scheme will throw open our traditional fishermen and small operators out of occupation and what steps have been taken of safeguard their interests and how Government propose to help them; and

(f) whether the scheme will virtually throw open our entire marine wealth and coastal area; if so, what surveillance, security and monitoring mechanism is proposed to be evolved to protect our interests and security and also to check smuggling activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) No proposal has been received from the foreign companies for deep sea fishing in Indian waters. Permission has been given for operation of deep sea fishing vessels to Indian companies under the schemes of joint ventures, Leasing and Test Fishing, on the basis of applications conforming to these guidelines.

(b) The reports of the Technical Committee and the FAO Experts on deep sea fishing, were received after the policy of joint ventures had been announced. These could not therefore be taken into consideration while formulating the New Deep Sea Fishing Policy. The New Deep Sea Fishing Policy was formulated on the